

Rational REFLECTIONS on
the present prevailing Custom of
IMMODERATE DRINKING.*Vino formia perit, Vino corrumpitur Aetas.*

PROPERTY.

IT is a Point so universally settled, that *Drunkennes* is a Vice, nay, a low and scandalous Vice, that it may seem an odd Thing to pretend at this time of Day to handle it in a Publick Paper: Yet, odd as it is, I conceive that I shall speak of it here in Terms which I shall easily justify. As low and scandalous a Vice as this is, we have hardly a great Writer among the Antients or Moderns, in Poetry, at least, but has, some where or other, recommended it. Among the *Greeks* and *Romans* it was excusable, because *Drunkennes* made a Part of their Religion; but by what Rule *Latin*, *French*, and *English* ANACREONTICKS, are now to be justified, and how People who call themselves *Christians* can excite each other to stand against the plainest Laws in the Gospel, or things I am yet to learn. I know very well that it may be said, that the Drinking there meant, is such as exhilarates only, calls forth the bright Faculties of the Soul, and elevates Men above the ordinary Path of Nature; but I know too that these are all bombast Terms for Temporary Madness: Against this very kind of Drinking therefore I intend this Paper: and not against the Clownish Practice of *swallowing Gall*, till the Ground is strewd with broken Pipes and Bottles, to the lumpish Things as little sensible as they. To reason with such People, would be throwing away one's Breath; a Drunkard of this Sort has seldom Sense enough left to be reclaimed. The Practice I speak of is however a fair Introduction to this beastly Trade, and therefore I am for stopping People in their Entrance, and for intreating them in their sober Minutes to consider the Consequences of even exhilarating Drinking, the Joys of the Bottle, and the Pleasures of Midnight Conversation.

In the first place, I beg leave to observe, that the common Opinion, as to the enlivening the Faculties, by drinking a small Quantity extraordinary, is ill founded; a Man who requires Wine to open him, is either ill-natured, or has not a proper Degree of Spirit; in either Case, a little Reasoning would do better than the extraordinary Glass, without running this Hazard, that by going a Step or two farther all is wrong again; the Sullen Man becomes Quarrelsome, and the Bashful Fellow Noisy. In *Italy*, where Men are allowed to have the quickest and most subtle Wits among *Europeans*, the Bottle is never called in to make them shine; Sherbets and small Liquors are drank at their Assemblies, and drank because the Climate requires them: A Man heated with Liquor there, would be thought fitter for his Bed, than Conversation; and indeed so he is every where, for many Reasons; Wit is only commendable when well applied; a sprightly Saying, on a proper Occasion, pleases Men of Sense, but a String of Jest is only fit for a Buffoon. Now I would be glad to know, when sober and becoming Discourses are made the Entertainment at a Tavern Board, or in the Hall of a Country Squire? You will say that they do not suit such Places; I agree with you in that; and therefore I say that such Places do not suit Men that are such as pretend to act like Men on Principles of Sense and Prudence, and not like Creatures merely actuated by their

[Price Two-PENCE.]

Passions, who sin for the sake of Taste, and consent to lose their Reason, that they may laugh at each other. But if it should be agreed that Wit might be raised by Wine, and that our Climate warrants Strong Liquors, as well as that of *Italy* does cool ones; yet it is a dangerous Experiment, unless we had a Machine for Drinking, a kind of *Barometer*, that would shew all the Degrees between Exhilarating and Madness; and then this *Regulator* must be fitted to every Man's Constitution, and every Man must be supposed to have Reason enough left, when he has been parting with his Reason for an Hour together, and stop just at such a Glass, in spite of ten Thousand Intreaties to drink another. It would be tedious to pursue this Point farther; every Man who allows himself Time to think, must perceive the Truth of what I have advanced, and be as fearful of trying the Strength of his Understanding this Way, as he would be of advancing to the Edge of a Precipice just to try whether the Strength of his Brain would bring him back again.

THERE are some, perhaps, who will pretend that Drinking is to be confined to strong Constitutions; and I am sorry to say, that in all Ages there have been People whimsical enough to value themselves upon this strange Property. It was reported by the *Athenian* Ambassadors to the People, with great Signs of Admiration, That King Philip of Macedonia could drink more than any of his Subjects. *Demosthenes*, who was none of Philip's Admirers, answered, that it was no great Compliment to a Prince to compare him to a Sponge. What he said then will be everlastingly true; an enormous Swallower of Liquor, is no more than a Human Sponge; and, by the way, those who can drink most, have seldom the most Wit; so that Conversation, the only Excuse that can be made for Drinking, must in this Case be laid aside.

WE must indeed allow that many who have had an indisputable Title to Wit and Parts, have drank hard, and, generally speaking, have drank them away; but if Men of Wit sometimes do wrong, does it follow that to have the Reputation of Wit we must imitate them? or, if one may be allowed to play on the Word, ought one to affect Wit, at the Expense of one's Wits? If any Votaries to the Glass should say that I have let up a Man of Straw, and have offered a ridiculous Defence of a Case I would overturn; I declare solemnly it is because I know nothing better that can be offered; I have looked into *Anacron*, *Horace*, *Camplsey*, and *Tom Browne*, and, bating the Beauties of Verse, I have said just what they say; but, if any Man thinks he can defend *Drinking* better, let him; in the mean time, I will offer a Word or two in favour of being Sober.

THE two great Blessings of which Man, as Man, is capable, are *Sincerity of Mind*, and *Health of Body*; both of which are best preserved by strict Sobriety. It is true, a Man must be at some Trouble to find out proper Subjects for the Employment of his Thoughts when he is sober; but then this is the proper Business of a Reasonable Creature; whereas Laughing, Swallowing, and talking idly, are Employments below Human Nature, and, as far as the Comparison will hold, below even a Brute; if Gentlemen would but habituate themselves to such Conversations as do not stand in need of Liquors; if they would walk in their Gardens; if they would look into their Estates; if they would consider what Good was in their Power to do; or what Evils they might prevent; they would find Things enough to employ their Time, their Thoughts, and their Discourse: Their Fortunes then would not lie at the Mercy of their Stewards, or the Understanding of their Son, or that of his Throat: It is annexed to Human Nature to have a Portion

of Care, and he who avoids that assigned him by Nature, wilfully takes a larger. In point of Health, Intemperance is the Source of almost all Diseases, which either flow from our own Errors in point of Eating or Drinking, or from those of our Ancestors; which, with respect to the Point before us, is all one.

As a Proneness of Drinking leads a Man into a Variety of Evils which he never thought of, so an inflexible Sobriety engages a Man in other good Habits, which he could never have acquired otherwise; a Sober Man must do something consistent with Reason; he therefore casts about for something that may please him also: This leads him to the Study of some sort of Science or other, or to the general Study of all Science, according to the natural Bent of his Genius; in the Pursuit of such Views he finds a Sprightliness in his Mind, warmer and better founded than any derived from Wine, and unattended with any Flagging of the Spirits: He goes to Bed satisfied, leaving nothing to reproach himself with; he rises cheerfully, because he has new, innocent, and worthy Schemes to accomplish. Whereas he who drinks, falls asleep without knowing it, is uneasy when he wakes, and, vexed at being mad Yesterday, makes himself mad To-day, that he may forget it. *Pythagoras* being once asked, How a Man addicted to *Drunkennes* might be cured? answered, By considering what Ills *Drunkennes* brings upon him. This may be as well applied to those who drink a Bottle of *French* Wine after Supper, as to the Concerns of *March* Beer; the Power of Thinking is decayed by the Former, as well as the Latter, and the Constitution rather more hurt by a Foreign Poison, than a Domestic one: Besides, the Straining of Pleasure, introduces Pain; a Man drinks a Glass or two at his Meal with a proper Relish, and in this Sense, Wine may be said to gladden the Heart of Man; carried further, the Blessing is lost, and we spoil our Taste, both for the Present and the Future; nay, we spoil it, not for Wine, or for any other Sort of Drink, but for all Things; if once Excess introduce Disease, we must bid Adieu, not only to the Pleasure which produced it, but to all Pleasures whatsoever: Rightly therefore did *Athenians* conclude his *Deipnosophists* with the following HYMN to HEALTH, whom the *Greeks* owned as a Goddess, and called *HYGIA*.

ON me, *HYGIA*! gracious shine,
First to me of Powers Divine:
While Air I breathe, be thou my Guest,
Make thy cheerful Seat my Breast;
For, without thee, AVISICIOUS HEALTH,
What is Power, and what is Wealth?
What all the vary'd Sweets of Life,
Faithful Friend, unblemish'd Wife?
Fair-blooming Daughters, hopeful Boys,
When himself Man un-enjoys?
Kind *Venus* spreads her subtle Chain,
Cupid points his Shaft in vain,
In vain assumes each SISTER GRACE,
Triumphing Shape, or charming Face!
Till, Zephyr-like, thy flow'ry Wing,
Fans and wakes the genial Spring;
Nor pleasure aught that wont to please,
Publick Praise, or Private Ease;
This Aid without, endearing Maid,
Nought displeases with thy Aid;
Whate'er our Wish, whate'er our Taste,
Absent thou, is Good misplac'd;
Heaven may the fruitless Wish assign,
But the Power of Taste is thine!

R. FREEMAN

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

ACCORDING to Letters from Constantinople, the new Grand Vizier is preparing for a speedy Expedition to Oczakow, and to renew the Siege of that Place with an Army of about 200,000 Men, of whom one fourth are to be Christians and Asiatics. The latter of these have brought from Grand Cairo and Syria great Sums of Money, arising from the Arrears of old Taxes, and from others lately laid on for supporting the Expences of the War. The Sultan, Mother to the Grand Seignior, has offered two thirds of her Wealth for the same Purpose; as has likewise the Muffi. In short, the Grand Seignior seems resolv'd to spare no Cost for the Recovery of that Place. As he is convinc'd that the European Method of attacking Places, is preferable to the old Ways which the Turks have been us'd to, he designs to employ in the Attack of Oczakow, a select Body of 20,000 Men, which consists chiefly of Rascians, Moldavians, and Deserters from the Christian Armies, disciplin'd by the Count de Bonneval; and this is all the Use that has been made as yet of the Count's Talents; for his being a Foreigner, the Envy of the Turkish Generals, and the Suspicions that are natural to the Genius of the Porte, have hitherto proved invincible Obstacles to the Desire he had of obtaining the Command in Chief; which Disappointment is partly owing also to the Suspicions of the Turkish Clergy, who very much question whether Count Bonneval is sincerely attach'd to Mahometism. Thus the Command of the Siege of Oczakow, will be conferred on the new Grand Vizier, who never had the Title of General, nor was ever before at the Head of an Army.

Letters of the 5th of January O. S. directly from Constantinople say, that all Affairs there are in great Confusion; that the People are absolutely for continuing the War against the Christians; and that they are therein supported by the Muffi, and the Men of the Law; that 'twas this Faction which demanded the Deposal of the late Grand Vizier, because of his want of Spirit in the present Juncture; and that the Caimacan his Successor, was only put in his Place by reason of his known Hatred to the Christians; that however he was not yet well fixed in that Post, and that the Murmurs of the People were so universal, that 'twas apprehended the Consequences might affect the Grand Seignior himself.

The Letters from Petersburg say, that the Plan of the Operations of the next Campaign against the Infidels, has been communicated to the Emperor's Minister the Count de Oster, and that Count Munich is gone through Moscow with all speed for the Ukraine, to prevent an Invasion from the Tartars; but 'tis much to be fear'd he will come too late. For,

Letters from Warsaw say, that the Palatine of Kiow, the Great General of the Crown Army, has received Advice that the Grim and Budziack Tartars, to the Number of near 150,000, commanded in Chief by the old Kan of the Tartars, who has been recalled from his Banishment in the Isle of Rhodes, and has under him the Kan of the Budziack, the Sultan Galga, the Kan Fetigerey, and all the Princes of the Grim Tartary, are actually on the March to invade the Ukraine. The principal View of this Expedition seems to be to favour the Siege of Oczakow, which the Turks are going to renew, and if possible, to ravage a Part of the Ukraine. The Tartars carry with them a great Train of Field Artillery; and 'tis said they will be seconded, upon Occasion, by the Cossacks, who are tributary to the Porte.

The Republick of Poland continues resolv'd to remain Neuter with regard to the War between the Emperor, Russia, and the Porte, and therefore carefully avoids every Opportunity to give the Grand Seignior any Umbrage. The Motives of this Conduct, are founded upon the Inconveniences that might result from a Proceeding inconsistent with such Neutrality; and they apprehend, that by declaring against the Turks, Poland may become a Theatre of War, and that the Republick will be but a small

Gainer by the Bargain: Besides, a great many Noblemen of the Kingdom, whose Lands are situate near the Confines of Turkey, would run the Hazard of being ruin'd by the Enemies Incursions. 'Tis moreover observed, that in a Circumstance of this Nature, the Republick would be obliged to call in Foreign Aids, and would have all the Reason to apprehend the Return of the same Difficulties that happened during the last Interregnum.

We mentioned in our last, That the Republick of Venice were determined likewise to observe an exact Neutrality in the present War with the Turks. Treaties were wont to be looked upon as sacred Things formerly: But the Conveniency of the particular States who are Contractors in them generally of late determine for or against the Execution of them. The formidable Power of the Ottomans made it an essential Piece of Policy, it was once thought, for the Emperor, the Kingdom of Poland, and the Venetians, to be inseparably united in any War that was to be carried on by either of the Powers against the Turks: But we see what sort of Reasons will be of Weight enough to acquit the Parties from their Engagements, (which in this case were deemed always of a stronger Nature than a common Treaty, and looked upon as of perpetual Obligation) when either Conveniency, or want of Inclination, interposes.

Letters from Venice give the following Particulars concerning the Deposing of the late Grand Vizier Abdulla Basma, from that important Office.

On the 28th of December, the very Day that he arrived from the Army, as he was going to the Seraglio to give his Highness an Account of the State of the Forces, he was stopped at the second Gate by one of the Ministers of the Seraglio, who communicated the Order to him, by which the Grand Seignior removed him from his Employment, and gave him the Government of Salonica. During this, the Aga of the Janissaries sent a Detachment of those Troops to the Grand Vizier's House to seize his Treasure, which we are assur'd amounts to 12,000 Purles, making in the whole 6 Millions of Crowns; which Money was immediately carry'd to the Seraglio to be employ'd towards the Expences of the War. Then the Caimacan or Governor of Constantinople was, by the Intrigues of the Kissar Aga of the Eunuchs, declar'd Grand Vizier in his Place. This was a Choice not very much applauded, not only because of his little Experience in the Art of War, but because he is reckon'd to be very cruel and bloody-minded. The new Prime Minister was complimented thereupon not many Days after, by the Foreign Ambassadors and other Ministers; but he received them very coolly, and even with Disdain, there being but one among the several Ambassadors of the Christian Powers, for whom he declares any Esteem. The Venetian Letter adds, that the Master of a Ship arrived from Castelnovo reports, that as he came away, he was informed that the Deposed Grand Vizier being arrived at his Government of Salonica, was strangled there soon after by the Grand Seignior's Order.

Letters from Vienna say, that the Velt Marshal de Konigsberg, is preparing his Equipage with all Expedition to make the next Campaign, notwithstanding the ill State of his Health will scarce admit of it: That a Courier is arrived from Tuscany, who they pretend has brought News, that the Spaniards have considerably reinforce'd the Garisons of Orbicello, and other Places belonging to them on the Coasts of the Great Duchy; and that it was reported, they shortly expected a great Body of Troops.

Other Letters from Vienna say, that the Day before being appointed for the first Session of the Committee of Enquiry into the Affair of the Count de Seckendorff, they went to his House at 9 o'Clock in the Morning, when the Count, upon Notice given him of their being met, came down from his Apartment with his Sword by his Side, and accompany'd by the Officer who is his Guard, and by his Secretary. The

Count sitting at the Table where the Commissioners were placed, they began their Interrogatories, his Answers to which were continued by the Secretary at War to Writing. Session held till Noon, and then the Count came up again to his Apartment. Next Day the Committee made a Report to the Emperor of the Answers given by the Count, which are not yet made Publick; but we hear that at his Imperial Majesty seem'd very well satisfied with them.

Letters from Dresden mention the Arrival of the Spanish Ambassador, the Count de Roda, there from Vienna; and the Death of Alexander de Miltiz de Scharffenberg, President of the Privy Council, who died there the 1st ult. at Night, at 83 Years of Age. He was formerly Governor to the King when he was only Prince Royal, and accompanied him in his Travels to foreign Parts. This Gentleman had such personal Merit, and had done such substantial Services to the Electorate of Saxony, that he is very much lamented by the King, the Queen, the whole Court, and all that knew him for his Learning, good Behaviour, and solid Virtue. When this Prince was under his Tuition, he lov'd him, was inseparable from him, and received his Advice with all the Docility imaginable.

Letters from Madrid, mention a Report, that Orders have been dispatched to all the Officers of the Marines, to repair to their Posts before the End of this Month. They add, that several Murders and Robberies have been lately committed in that City, for which the chief Criminals have been apprehended, and some of them Persons of honourable Families; and that of this Number were 7 or 8 Women, Receivers of Stolen Goods, who were whipp'd and branded, and afterwards imprison'd within strong Walls. Others of their Accomplices were hang'd, after being drawn on Hurdles to the Place of Execution; and such of them as had robbed Churches or Convents, had their Hands first cut off. The Letters from Cadix say, that the Indulto of a per Cent. upon the Effects that arrived from the Indies by the Ships El Fuerte and la Princesa, has been settled, besides a Present to the Value of 25,000 Pistoles for the future Queen of the Two Sicilies, which will amount to about one and 3-4ths per Cent.

They write from the Hague, That M. Hume Bruyninx, who has for a great Number of Years been the States Minister at the Court of Vienna, died there lately.

L O N D O N.

Tuesday last his Majesty went to the House of Peers with the usual State, attended in the Coach by his Grace the Duke of Richmond, and the Lord William Manners, the Lord of the Bed-Chamber in Waiting, and gave the Royal Assent to the Malt Bill, &c.

All the late Queen's Officers and Servants have been paid their full Salaries up to Christmas last, and his Majesty has been graciously pleased to give Orders for their being duly paid every Quarter, for the future, during his Life.

Monday last the Right Hon. Sir Robert Walpole's new-married Lady was presented to his Majesty, their Royal Highnesses the Princesses Amelia and Carolina, and his Royal Highness the Duke, at St. James's, and met with a most gracious Reception.

Friday last Week the Petition of the West-India Merchants of London, was presented to the Hon. House of Commons, praying Redress from the Depredations of the Spaniards: There was one likewise from the Merchants of Bristol; as well as one from a private Merchant of this City; and a private one from a Merchant of Bristol; and all referred to a Committee of the whole House for Thursday next. There were about 70 Gentlemen to attend the Petition who were all received in a handsome Manner.

Thursday last Week a Common-Council was held at Guildhall, when the following Resolutions, which the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen lately came to, were unanimously approved of by the Court, as the best and most

effectual Method to clear the Streets of the great Swarm of Beggars, Vagabonds, and other Disorderly Persons, which they are continually infested with: The said Court likewise assured his Lordship that they would use their utmost Endeavours, in their respective Wards, to see the said Orders put in due Execution, by giving a strict Charge to their Beadles, Constables, and others, to do their Duty therein, that his Lordship's good Intentions may prove effectual.

BARNARD MAYOR.

An Especial Court held on Shrove-Tuesday (that is to say) the 14th Day of February, 1737, and in the Eleventh Year of the Reign of King GEORGE the Second, of Great Britain, &c.

THIS Court proceeded, according to the Order of the Seventh of Instant, to consider how the Laws against Rogues, Vagabonds, Sturdy Beggars, and Vagrants, may effectually be put in Execution; and the Act of Parliament made in the Twelfth Year of the Reign of Queen Anne, intitled, *An Act for reducing the Laws relating to Rogues, Vagabonds, Sturdy Beggars, and Vagrants, into one Act of Parliament, and for the more effectual punishing such Rogues, Vagabonds, Sturdy Beggars, and Vagrants, and sending them whither they ought to be sent*, being now read: And, after debating the Matter how the same may be effectually put in Execution, This Court came to the following Resolutions, (that is to say)

First, It is the Opinion of this Court, that it be recommended from this Court to the next Common-Council, to make some Provision for the Workhouse in Bishopsgate-Street, which is under the Care of the President and Governors of the Poor of the City of London.

Secondly, It is the Opinion of this Court, that an Allowance of Two Shillings be paid out of the Chamber of this City, to any Person who shall apprehend any such Rogue or Vagabond as is described in the said Act, and cause him or her to be brought before any Justice of the Peace, to be examined and punished as the said Act directs.

Thirdly, It is the Opinion of this Court, that the Persons so apprehended (if the Time be convenient) be carried immediately before a Magistrate to be examined, and dealt with as the Law directs.

Fourthly, It is the Opinion of this Court, that in case the Person be so apprehended at an improper time to be carried before a Magistrate, that then he or she shall be carried to the London Workhouse in Bishopsgate-Street, or to Bridewell, there to remain until a proper time to convey them to a Magistrate, to be examined and dealt with according to Law.

Fifthly, It is the Opinion of this Court, that such of the Vagrants and Vagabonds as by Law are to be whipped and sent to the Place of their Settlements, be so sent at the publick Charge of this City.

Sixthly, It is the Opinion of this Court, That such Children who shall be apprehended, and are afflicted with any Disease, and have no Persons to take care of them, be cured of such Disease, and then transported as the Law directs, at the Publick Charge of this City.

It was resolved at the same time that 300l. should be issued out of the Chamber of London, and paid into the Hands of the Treasurer of the said Workhouse, to make proper Provision to receive and maintain those Persons who have no proper Settlements.

It was moved by Mr. Alderman Barber to build proper and several Receptacles, at convenient Parts of this City, for loose and disorderly Persons of both Sexes, who disturb the Streets at unreasonable Hours, to prevent the heavy Expenses at the several Compters for all small as well as great Offenders that are committed to their Care.

They also came to a Resolution, on a Motion of Alderman Godschall, to allow the Chamberlain of the City of London (to commence from Christmas, 1736) Two Hundred Pounds per Annum, in consideration of his extraordinary Trouble, and additional Expence in Clerks, &c.

in receiving and issuing out the Monies collected for the Lamp-Duty and the Markets.

It was Resolved also to put the Laws strictly in Execution against all such as refuse to pay the Lamp-Duty, and against such Collectors as are remiss in the Discharge of their Office.

A Committee of Four Aldermen and Eight Commoners were appointed to enquire by what Means several Jews have been admitted into the Freedom of the City of London.

The City Marshals, pursuant to an Order of the Right Hon. the Lord-Mayor, have made a Search these two Sundays in the publick Houses, but have found little or no Cause of Complaint, which is a Proof how ready the People are to comply with those Laws which tend to the general Good.

Wednesday the Seven Malefactors mentioned in our former were executed at Tyburn, who all behaved decently. The Bodies of Parrot and Brownjohn were carry'd away in two Hearses; Gittings's Body was likewise carry'd away by his Friends; Birt was carried to Surgeons-Hall, and Mortershed to a private Surgeon's; but the Rabble assaulted the House, took away the Body, insolently carried it over the Bridge, offered it to Sale at St. Thomas's Hospital, but not being bid Money enough for it, they steered the Carcase wit^h Pitch, and buried it in St. George's Fields.

Wednesday last Week a Countryman, who had just received 25 Guineas, had his Pocket picked in going to his Inn in Smithfield; it is supposed the Sharpers saw him receive the Money, so followed him till they got it; he observed that he was much jostled several times, but did not think of his Money.

Two Ships were fitted out this Year at Gotenburg, one for China, and the other for Bengall; the former of which having lost her Masts, put into Norway in Distress, and the Concern'd were in very great Pain for the other: The Dances have also had the Misfortune to lose a Ship on the Coast of Judland, commanded by Capt. John Voss, bound from Copenhagen to Tranquebar on the Coast of Cormandel in East India.

The Hon. the Lord Vere Beauclerc, lately appointed one of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, is re-chosen for Windsor, by a Majority of one Vote.

Two Monuments are erecting in Westminster, one under the fine new Window at the West End of Westminster Abbey, in Memory of Sir Thomas Hardy, Knt. late Vice-Admiral of the Blue.

And another next to Butler's Monument at the South End of the Abbey, in Memory of Milton the Poet, Author of Paradise Lost.

On Sunday Evening several Gentlemen and Ladies, in returning from walking in St. James's Park, had their Pockets picked of their Watches and Handkerchiefs, and some lost their Swords. It is observable, that a Gang of Pickpockets are frequently lurking about the Gate that leads into the Park from Spring Garden, and take the Advantage of making Stops in the Passage, the better to accomplish their Designs. It is hoped this will be a Caution, and put Gentlemen and Ladies upon their Guard, that such Villains may be disappointed of their wicked Intentions.

On Friday last Week was held by Adjournment at the Town-Hall at St. Margaret's Hill, Southwark, a Continuation of the Sessions of Justices for the County of Surrey; when, among other Business several Fugitives for Debt claim'd the Benefit of the Act of Insolvency: One of whom, a Mariner, being clear'd, in an Extasy burst out with the following Expressions, 'This is truly a Jubilee-Year to me; I have got clear of my Debts, an extravagant Wife and Family, and obtained my Liberty: The Parliament, God bless them, have spung'd out my Debts, my Wife, in my Absence, has married another Husband, and the Lord hath taken my Children to himself.'

Monday last some Children being in the Shop of Mr. Lawton a Butcher in Islington, one of them, a Boy, happened to see a Musket, which he took in his Hand and presented to a Girl about fourteen, his Cousin, saying, I'll shoot you,

(not thinking it was charg'd;) and immediately the Piece went off, and tore her Face and Neck in a most miserable manner.

On Saturday last the Workmen began to clear and rake away the Pavement at Stocks Market, in order to lay the Foundation for a Mansion House for the Lord Mayors of this City.

On Tuesday the 14th of February last, John Pendry, William Henry, Howel David, Noble, Benjamin Potherough, Edward Roberts, and William Mayo, with other Persons unknown, cut down the Turnpike at Wilton upon Wye, in Herefordshire, and broke open the Shop of William Matthews, the Keeper of the said Turnpike, and took away, or destroyed all the Goods of the said Matthews: His Majesty, for the better Discovery of the Persons concerned in the said Crimes, who have since all absconded, and fled from Justice, has been pleased to promise his most Gracious Pardon to any one of them, who shall discover his Accomplice or Accomplices, so as he or they may be apprehended and convicted thereof. And also a Reward of Fifty Pounds to any one who shall make a Discovery of any of the Persons concerned in the said Facts, to be paid upon the Conviction of the Offender or Offenders.

A few Days past Mrs. Elizabeth Minnet, a young Woman about 25 Years of Age, Daughter to an Apothecary formerly of Tooley-street, Southwark, with a young Lad of about nine Years of Age, crossing the Water from the Old Swan to Pepper-Alley about Eight o'Clock at Night, was (as is supposed) drowned by the Carelessness of the Waterman; neither she, the Boy, or Waterman having since been seen or heard of.

By a Letter from Annapolis-Royal in North-America, we are informed, that on the 19th of April last, at Four in the Morning, a Boy of Ten Years of Age, named Isaac Provender, got out of his Bed, took a Brand's-end from the Kitchen Fire, went directly to the Cow-house, which adjoin'd to the Dwelling-house of his Master, Lieut. Amhurst, who took him upon Charity, and there set fire to a Load of Hay, which, in a few Minutes, burst into a Flame, that catch'd hold of the House, and in less than two Hours consum'd it to the Ground, with all the most valuable Goods and Furniture; and it was with some Difficulty the Family escaped with their Lives, the House being in a Flame before they could get out of their Beds; and in the Hurry Mr. Amhurst was wounded in the Foot by the End of a Spit, which in the Confusion was thrown out of Doors. The Boy soon confess'd all, without any seeming Concern; and acknowledged he once intended to cut his Master's and Mistress's Throats, but was afraid of being discover'd; but then he thought he might easily destroy the Servant-Maid, and one Night actually got out of Bed, went down to the Kitchen, groped about for a Knife, and finding none, he began to repent, as he expressed it, and so slept by the Kitchen Fire all the rest of the Night. These diabolical Projects having failed, he thought of burning the House, which he unhappily accomplish'd; and to prevent being suspected, after he had set fire to the Hay, went directly to Bed, and when the Alarm was given, came down Stairs quite naked, in a pretended Fright, leaving his Cloaths behind him. He gave no other Reason for perpetrating this horrid Fact, than his being reprov'd and slightly corrected for several mischievous Tricks which he had committed.

COUNTRY NEWS.

On Wednesday last Week the Assizes ended at Reading in Berkshire, when one Wingfield was tried on two Indictments; the 1st for firing Farmer Hounslow's Barn, and found Guilty; and the 2d was for sending an Incendiary Letter, which he was likewise found guilty of. He was so harden'd, that he made his Brags in Gaol, that if they found him guilty, he would not be hang'd, for he would send a Letter to the Devil to fetch him: He behaved so impudently, that he was several times reprimanded by the Court on his Trial.

There were five capitally Convicted, viz. The above Wingfield, for firing the Barn; Ambrose

brose Strange, alias John Sturabout, for the Murder and Robbery of Mr. Giles Blagrove, a Farmer; two for Felony, and one for Transportation.

When the Jury brought in their Verdict against Wingfield, Guilty, on the first Indictment, for burning the Barn, he addressed himself to an Officer who stood near him, and declared, that he was innocent of the thing, and that his Accusers had sworn falsely against him.

Upon the second Indictment, for Incendiary Letters, he was likewise found guilty; and after the Judge had pronounced Sentence against him, he kneeled down and beg'd for Transportation; but when he got up, he spoke to one of his Acquaintance, and told him, that he knew he was a dead Man, but that he was innocent, and would declare himself so when he came to die upon the Gallows: These, or Words to the same Effect, were the last he ever spoke, for he was no sooner removed from the Bar, but he threw himself into the Arms of his Mother, and expired the Moment he enter'd the Cage where the Prisoners are kept to expect their Trial.

His Death was the more surprizing, as he was a Man of uncommon Courage and Resolution, who, during the whole of his Confinement, appeared cheerful and unconcerned at any thing that should happen, and when upon his Trial, look'd so unaffected with Fear, that the King's Council made Use of his intrepid Behaviour to aggravate his Guilt.

The same Day the Assizes ended at Hertford, when George Slater, alias Shrimpton, alias Castle, alias Lamb, for Burglary, and stealing two Geldings; John Collings, otherwise Lovell, Thomas Whiting, and Edward Brookes, for Horse-stealing, received Sentence of Death.

Richard Shyrrell, was ordered for Transportation.

William Percy and Thomas Wansly, were burnt in the Hand.

Five were ordered to be Whipt, and 8 Acquitted.

George Roberts, who stands Indicted for a Robbery on the Highway, appearing to be disorder'd in his Sense, was ordered to remain in Gaol till the next Assizes for the said County.

Before the Judges left the Town, they reprimanded Whiting and Brookes for Transportation for 14 Years.

On Thursday last Week the Assizes ended at Wymchester, when the four following Persons received Sentence of Death, viz. Mary Troke, for poisoning her Master, John Boyd and Job Ward, for several Robberies on the Highway, and James Warwick for Horse-stealing. John Boyd and James Warwick are to be executed next Saturday se'nnight; and Mary Troke, who is a Girl under 16 years of age, is to be burnt at the same time. Job Ward was reprieved by the Judges before they left that City. There was great Intercession made for the Girl, but to no Purpose.

At the Assizes at Hertford 4 Persons received Sentence of Death, 8 were cast for Transportation, and 2 ordered to be whipt.

On Friday last Week the Assizes ended at Oxford, when two Persons were capitally Convicted, viz. Clifford and Chapman, for Burglary. Gardner, Castle and Busby, were cast for Transportation, the former for stealing Goods, and the two latter for Sheep-stealing; two were burnt in the Hand, one whipt, and four Acquitted.

Northampton, March 6. On Wednesday the 22d inst, a young Woman belonging to Calcott Mill, near Newport-pagnell, attempting to draw up some Water just above the Mill, the Bank-side she held by to support herself broke down, and she fell into the Water, and was immediately carried under the Mill Wheel by the Current, and drowned before she could receive any Assistance.

On Thursday last ended the Assizes for this County, before the Hon. Mr. Baron Fortescue, when two Persons received Sentence of Death, viz. Joseph Cave, for House-breaking, and Peter

Butlin, for a Robbery on the Highway, and Horse-stealing; the former is reprieved, and the latter order'd for Execution. Isaac Turner was burnt in the Hand for stealing Corn. Terence Connor and Thomas Login, found guilty of defacing the current Coin of this Kingdom, were sentenced to be set in the Pillory at this Town (which they suffer'd on Saturday last) and at Wellingborough (the 19th Instant) and to be imprisoned, the former for the Space of six Months, and the latter seven Months. Luke Connor and John Robarts, were discharged by Proclamation.

Last Saturday the Assizes ended at Chelmsford for the County of Essex, when Cornelius Weld, James Bullock, and Thomas Wicks, for Horse-stealing, and John Chamneys, for House-breaking, received Sentence of Death; but the Judge reprieved Bullock, Wicks and Chamneys, for Transportation for 14 Years. At the said Assizes Samuel Davis and Thomas Sands, for several Robberies on the Highway, were ordered to remain in Gaol till the next Assizes. Charles Hewett and Robert Stevens were cast for Transportation. Andrew Tarlin, Newbury Lydard, Anne Carter, Paul Morion, and John Heath, were ordered to be whipped. And ten were acquitted.

PREFERMENTS CIVIL.

The Right Hon. the Lord Vere Beauclerc, Commissioner of the Navy, is appointed a Commissioner of the Admiralty, in the room of the Lord Archibald Hamilton.

George Crowle, Esq; Member of Parliament for Hull, Yorkshire, succeeds the Lord Vere Beauclerc, as a Commissioner of the Navy; And John Philipson, Esq; Member for Shoreham, succeeds Mr. Crowle, as a Commissioner of the Navy.

Colonel Horsey, who was Governor of the York Buildings Company, is made Governor of South Carolina.

Lewis Morris, sen. Esq; is appointed Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over the Province of Nova Caesares, or New Jersey, in America, in the room of the Right Hon. the Lord Delawar.

George Clark, jun. Esq; is appointed Secretary of the Colony of New York in America.

PREFERMENTS ECCLESIASTICAL.

The Rev. Mr. Samuel Shuckford, Rector of Shelton in Norfolk, and Author of the Sacred and Profane History of the World Connected, is made a Prebendary of Canterbury, vacant by the Death of the late Rev. Dr. Egerton.

The Rev. and Hon. James Beauclerc, (commonly called Lord James Beauclerc) is made a Prebendary in the Free Chapel of Windsor, void by the Death of Dr. Edward Jones.

The Rev. Mr. John Ewer is made a Prebendary in the said Chapel, void by the Death of Dr. Michael Stanhope.

And the Rev. Mr. John Griffith is made a Prebendary in the Cathedral and Metropolitane Church of Canterbury, void by the Death of Dr. Edward Finch.

The Rev. Dr. Knatchbull is made Chancellor and Prebendary of Durham, in the room of the late Dr. Chandler.

The Rev. Mr. George-Henry Rooke, Fellow of Christ College in Cambridge, is collated to the Vicarage of Foxton, Cambridgeshire.

The Rev. Mr. Langdon is presented to the Vicarage of Mudford near Yeovil.

The Rev. Mr. Henly, is presented to the Rectory of Limpsham in the Diocese of Bath and Wells.

The Rev. George Upton, A. M. of Exeter College in Oxford, is presented to the Rectory of Sevington cum Capella de Dinington, in the same Diocese.

DEATHS.

Febr. 25. The Rev. Mr. Tonge, Rector of Bellue, and Vicar of Morton cum Hackenby, Lincolnshire.

Mar. 2. Mr. Matthew Avison, one of his Majesty's Messengers. Also, in Spring Gardens — Webb, Esq; eldest Son of the late General Webb.

Mar. 3. At his House in Audley Street, William Thompson, Esq; Capt. of a Company of Invalids. Also, in Piccadilly, John Mox, Esq; Capt. of a Company of Invalids.

at her Seat in Low-Layton, the Lady Trench, Relict of the late Sir Fisher Trench, Bart.

Mar. 5. At his House the Corner of Catharine Street in the Strand, Mr. Sparks, Brasier to the King.

Mar. 6. At his House in Fleetstreet, Edward Bultrode, Esq; first Clerk to the Petty Office in Chancery.

Next Month will be published, In FOUR VOLUMES, in Fols., The WORKS of SAMUEL CLARKE, D. D. Late Rector of St. James's, Westminster. Printed for J. and P. Knapton, in Ludgate-street.

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OF GREAT BRITAIN, For the Month of FEBRUARY, 1738. Containing in particular,

1. An Account of Horse-ponding an Attorney, for executing a Civil Process amongst Military Officers.
2. Memoirs of the Bridge at Westminster.
3. Reflections on the Deaths of some late Criminals.
4. Reasons for observing the 30th of January.
5. Feats of an Infant Witch at Bristol.
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